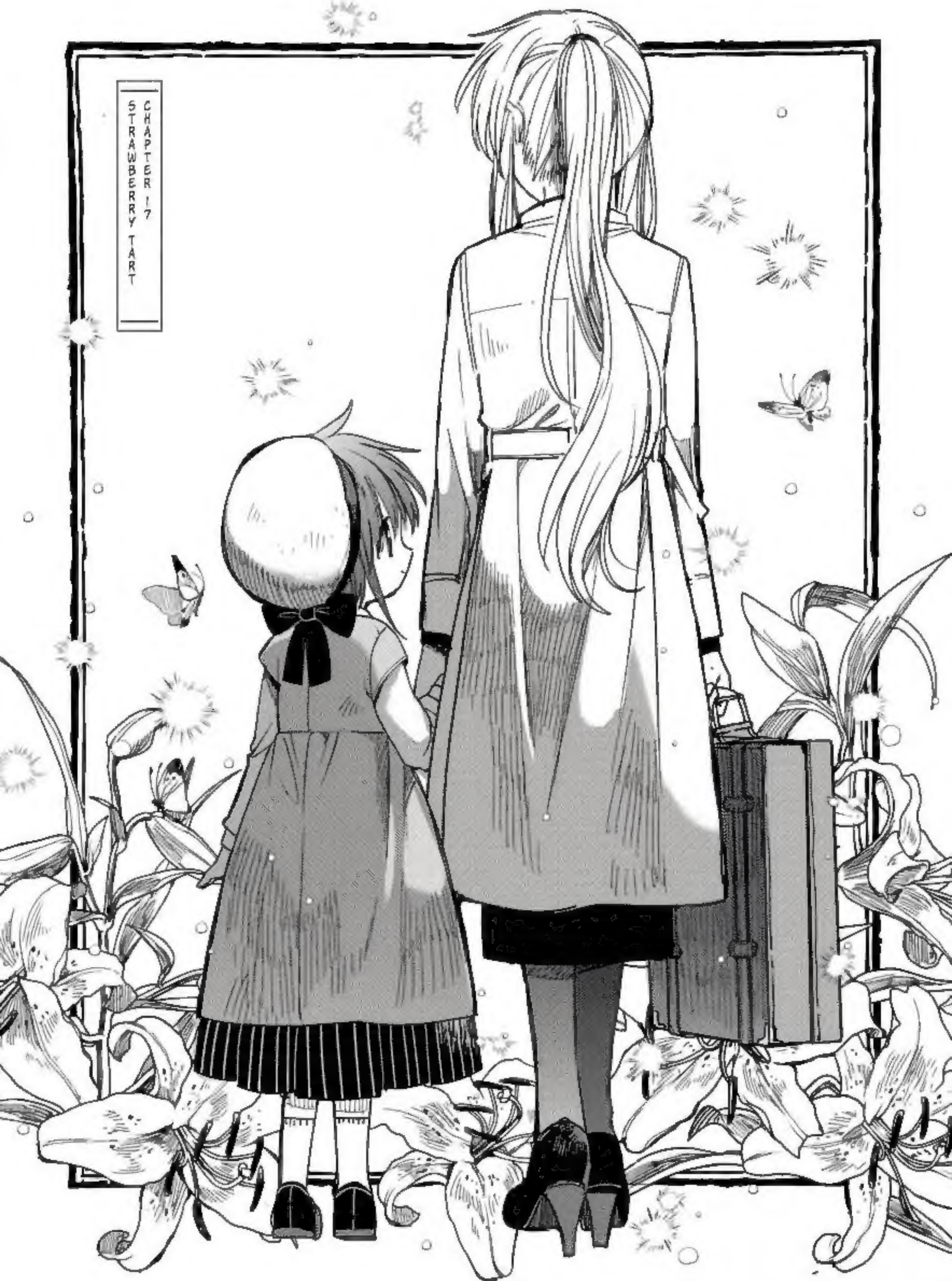
CHAPTER 17
STRAWBERRY TART

Mel-chan,
Mel-chan

Today
I made that strawberry tart you like so much.

I love your tarts!

yay
Mel,
come on,
sit down.
Okay!

CHAPTER 17
STRAWBERRY TART

chirp
chirp
chirp
A dream...
sleepy
yawn
I had wanted to taste Colette-san's strawberry tart one last time.
pull
MEL, ARE YOU READY?
OPEN

MASTER, ARE WE FINE WITH JUST THIS MUCH LUGGAGE?
YES, THAT'S FINE.
AND YOUR TAIL...
OH, WE'LL GET WHATEVER WE NEED WHEN WE GET THERE.
HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE BEFORE WE ARRIVE?
WE'LL TAKE A TRAIN FOR TWO DAYS, THEN TRANSFER TO A DIFFERENT TRAIN FOR ONE MORE DAY,
AND FROM THERE GO BY HORSE-DRAWN COACH.
Horsies!
SHINE
... EVERYTHING'S GONE.

……
WHAT'S WRONG?
... COLETTE-SAN CAN'T COME AND MEET US AFTER ALL?
YES.
LATELY HER HIP'S ACTING UP AGAIN, AND IT SEEMS SHE CAN'T GET OUT OF BED.
SHE'S RECUPERATING AT HER SISTER'S HOUSE, SO SHE CAN'T COME TODAY.
GLOOM
... I SEE.

WHEN WE GET THERE, LET'S SEND COLETTE A LETTER.
NOW LET'S GO TO THE STATION. WE DON'T WANT TO BE LATE FOR OUR TRAIN.
MASTER,
THE PIGEONS...
Oh
SHALL WE LET THEM GO?
clang
COME ON, GO.

FLUT

YOU'RE FREE NOW.

TER

FOR SALE

YOU'RE... LEAVING?

I SEE.
HOW SOON?
UMM
NOT RIGHT AWAY... IN ABOUT A YEAR.
UNDERSTOOD. I'LL HELP WITH THE PREPARATIONS.

STARE
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
WELL... I WAS JUST THINKING THAT YOU ACCEPTED THAT SURPRISINGLY EASILY.
OH, MASTER, I'VE NEVER OPPOSED YOUR WISHES.

COLETTE. . YOU'VE WATCHED OVER THIS HOUSE FOR SO LONG.
YOU WERE WATCHING OVER IT WHEN I WAS BORN, AND WHEN MY PARENTS DIED...
AND WHEN I CUT MYSELF OFF,
YOU STAYED WITH ME
THIS MANOR WAS THE PLACE MY PARENTS LEFT TO ME.
BUT NOW,

I'VE DECIDED I'LL GO AND FIND MY OWN PLACE,
TOGETHER WITH MEL.

I'M SORRY.
IT'S TOO FAR FOR YOU TO COME WITH US.
clasp
DON'T APOLOGIZE, MASTER.
I ALREADY KNEW.
I TOLD YOU BEFORE

CHOOSING SOMETHING MEANS GIVING SOMETHING UP.
IT'S ALRIGHT.
YOU'VE FOUND ONCE MORE SOMEONE YOU CAN TRUST FROM THE BOTTOM OF YOUR HEART, RIGHT?
AND SO YOU CAN'T BE HAPPY WITHOUT HER.

I'VE GROWN OLD.

IT'S ABOUT TIME FOR ME TO RETIRE.

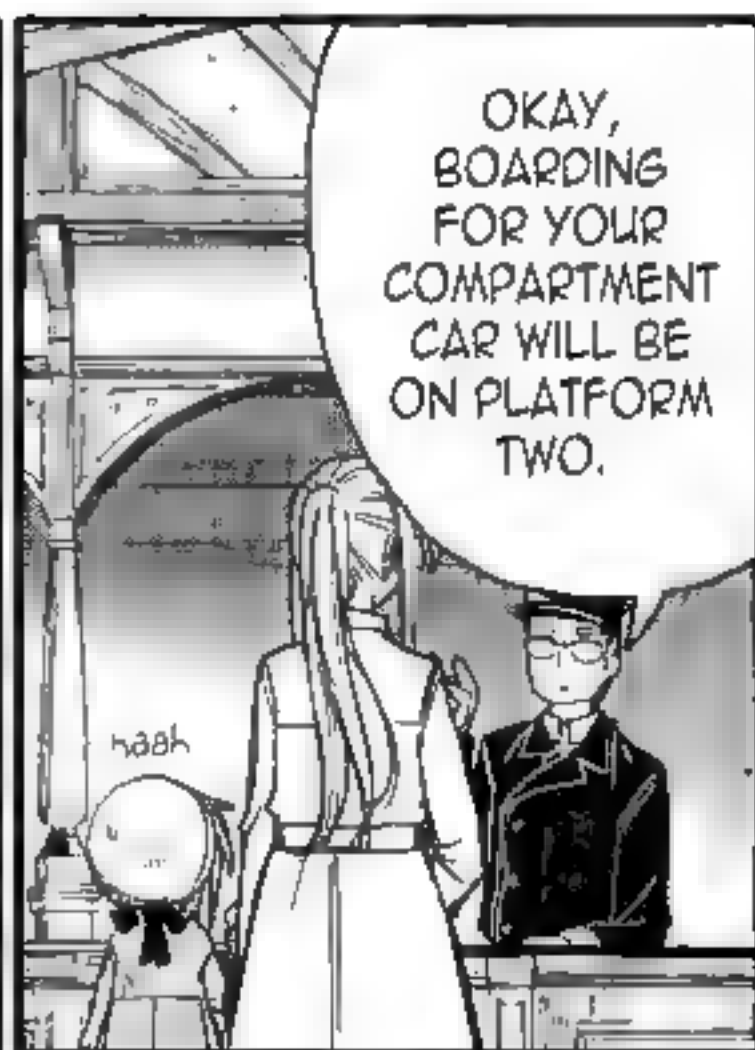
chirp

chirp

I'LL SEE YOU OFF,

AND THEN I'LL LEAVE OUT MY OLD AGE IN PEACE, AT MY SISTER'S.

I WAS BLESSED TO HAVE BEEN ABLE TO SPEND SO MUCH TIME WITH YOU, MASTER
WELL THEN! SO THAT YOU TWO WON'T HAVE ANY TROUBLE LIVING ON YOUR OWN FROM NOW ON,
I'LL PREPARE SOME NOTES REGARDING HOUSEWORK.
I'M SURE MEL-CHAN WILL BE ABLE TO MAKE USE OF THEM
I'M PLANNING ON HELPING OUT WITH THE HOUSE WORK TOO...
. MASTER, YOU'RE TOO CLUMSY.
UGH!

TICKETS.
ONE ADULT AND ONE CHILD.
da-dum
PULL
da-dum
da-dum
OKAY, BOARDING FOR YOUR COMPARTMENT CAR WILL BE ON PLATFORM TWO.
haah

Child
MASTER, MAY I OPEN THE WINDOW?
SURE... BUT BE CAREFUL YOUR HAT DOESN'T FLY AWAY.
OKAY.
SLIDE
FLUTTER
DEPAR-TING SOON
PLEASE HURRY

haah
haah
MASTER!
MEL-CHAN!
gasp
COLETTE-SAN!
THANK GOD I MADE IT... MY SISTER'S GRANDSON BROUGHT US BY CAR.
HERE. IT'S YOUR FAVORITE MEL-CHAN, A STRAWBERRY TART. MY SISTER HELPED ME MAKE IT.
pant
pant

MEL-CHAN,
TAKE CARE OF MASTER.
I WILL.

YES. THANK YOU, COLETTE.
KEEP WELL, YOU TWO.
PLAT-FORM TWO...
ding
DEPAR-TING,
ding
ding
DEPAR-TING...
KA-THUNK
ding

IT'S GOOD WE GOT TO SEE HER ONE LAST TIME

SOB

SOB

SOB

SOB

YES.

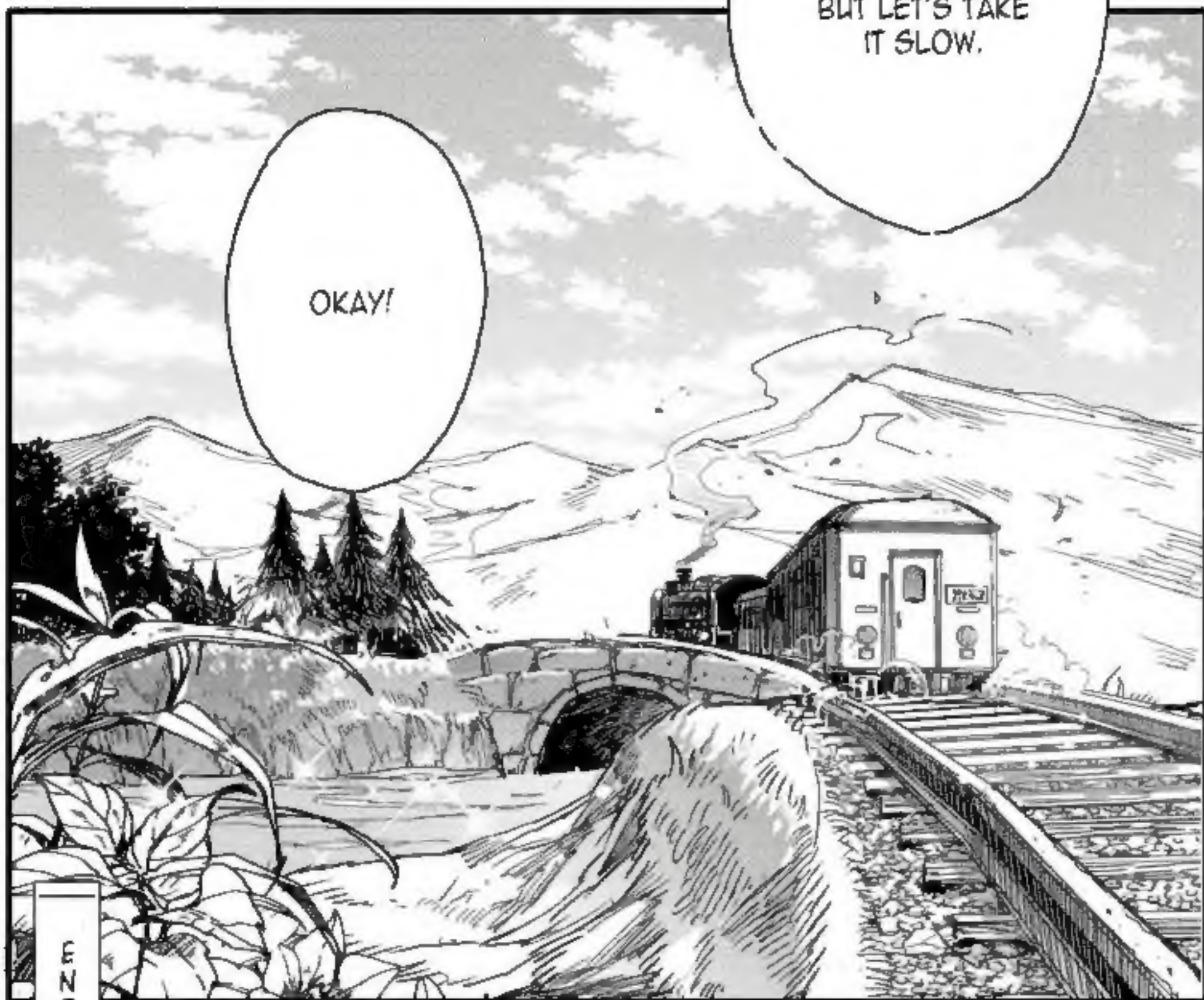
KISS
ME,
DID THAT SHOCK YOU INTO STOPPING CRYING?
NOD
NOD

MASTER, YOU DID THAT SAME THING BEFORE A LONG TIME AGO
giggle
DID I?
YES
at the zoo
katan
koton
katan
koton

......
MASTER?
What's wrong?

mumble
No... I was just thinking that even though it's a private room, I have to control myself better.
mumble
?

GIGGLE

IT'S A LONG PATH AHEAD OF US, BUT LET'S TAKE IT SLOW.
OKAY!
END

APRIL 24TH SUNNY
MEL AND I SET OUT FOR OUR NEW LIFE.
WE'RE LOVERS NOW, SO I TRIED ASKING HER TO CALL ME BY NAME, INSTEAD OF SAYING "MASTER".
BUT SHE GOT VERY EMBARRASSED, AND COULDN'T SAY IT.
THIS MIGHT TAKE SOME TIME.
So cute.
Uh... Ummm

CHAOSTEAM CREDITS
TRANSLATION:
SCHUYGUY
CLEANING/TYPESETTING:
SHINIGAMI SOUMIASAN
TYPESETTING/QC
HIME AIHARA
RAWS
CY DUP
Thank you for reading the series and enjoying it!